**The Humanity of Jesus**

*John 1:1, 14*

**Introduction**

1. **John 1:1, 14** – the scripture makes clear the fact concerning the simultaneous Divine and human nature of Jesus.
2. Despite the clarity of scripture on the subject, there is an age-old theological dispute concerning His deity and humanity.
   1. Men foolishly try to make sense of such a deep subject beyond the revelation of scripture.
   2. **1 Peter 4:11** – speak as the oracles of God.
   3. **Deuteronomy 29:29** – secret things belong to God.
   4. Faith takes God at His word and does not question the revelation (**cf. Romans 10:17**).
3. While men through the ages have sided with either the deity of Jesus or His humanity – both insisting the necessity of one over the other – the eyes of faith perceive the necessity for both.
4. The humanity of Jesus is essential for the execution of the will of God, and our salvation.
5. Scripture Asserts His Humanity
6. Docetic Gnosticism
   1. Docetic – from the Greek *dokein* ‘seem’
   2. Gnosticism – from Greek *gnōstikos*, from *gnōstos* ‘known’
   3. Docetic Gnostics:
      1. A group of heretics claiming a special anointing of knowledge that Jesus only seemed to come in the flesh.
      2. They believed that matter was inherently evil, thus, Jesus could not have truly inhabited the flesh.
      3. They taught that Jesus was not actually a man, but only seemed to be a man.
      4. What men saw of Jesus was merely a phantom projection of a man.
7. An Inspired Refutation
   1. The true anointing – **1 John 2:20-27** – the knowledge claimed by the antichrist’s was false, because it denied Christ.
      1. **(vv. 20-23)** – You DO know – those who deny Jesus are wrong. (**cf. 1 John 4:1-3** – deny Christ by denying He had come in the flesh)
      2. **(vv. 24-27)** – Their anointing came from hearing teaching – the false teachers deviated from the original doctrine, but John exhorts his readers to continue in it, having confidence that IT is the truth – it came from God (**cf. 1 John 4:4-6** – “WE,” i.e. the apostles are of God, so hear us.).
   2. The revelation – **1 John 1:1-4** – what was taught to John’s readers was the incarnate word.
      1. He could be, and was, experienced with the physical senses.
      2. This was necessary to believe to have fellowship with Him and the Father.
   3. The scriptural evidence – the scripture is replete with evidence for Jesus’ humanity:
      1. **Genesis 3:15; Galatians 4:4** – born of a woman – flesh.
      2. **Romans 1:3** – confirmed seed of David according to the flesh.
      3. Post resurrection appearance – **Luke 24:36-43**
         1. (**v. 37)** – seeing a person alive they knew was murdered just days before was mind boggling.
         2. **(vv. 39-40)** – Jesus offered them tangible proof. (**cf. John 20:25, 27** – Thomas desired to feel the scars)
         3. **(vv. 41-43**) – further proof, because spirits do not require physical sustenance, nor can they take such in.
8. Our Need for His Humanity
9. His Sympathy
   1. The Holy Spirit stresses His humanity in relation to the rest of humanity – **Hebrews 2:11, 14, 17** – all of one, share in the same, made like brethren.
      1. Does not merely state His human nature, but stresses THAT IT MAKES HIM ONE WITH US.
      2. **Cf. 1 Timothy 2:5** – men, man – *anthrōpos*; generally, of "a human being, male or female," without reference to sex or nationality (VINE).
      3. **Job 9:32-35** – Jesus is that mediator that Job desired. (One who relates to both parties, and can therefor speak on behalf of both.)
   2. Able to sympathize – **Hebrews 4:15** – *sympatheō* – "to suffer with another (sun, 'with,' pascho, 'to suffer'), to be affected similarly" (Eng., "sympathy"), to have "compassion" upon (VINE).
   3. One of the most effective ways Satan works is by making us feel isolated in our experiences.
      1. There is no true isolation – **Ecclesiastes 1:9-10** – nothing new.
      2. We are not ever really an exception.
      3. It helps when we have someone near us that can relate to what we are going through, but times are tougher when there is nobody near us who can.
      4. Jesus has been ***“touched with the feeling of our infirmities” (Hebrews 4:15;*** KJV).
      5. AND HE IS EVER NEAR FOR SYMPATHY TO THOSE WHO LOVE HIM – **John 14:23** – is at home with His disciples.
      6. EX: **2 Timothy 4:16-17** – none stood with Paul, but the Lord did. (**cf. Isaiah 53:3** – He, like Paul, was acquainted with sorrow, grief, and rejection.)
   4. He knows what you are going through. He can sympathize with you:
      1. Burdened with temptation?
      2. Burdened with physical affliction?
      3. Betrayed by friends and/or family?
      4. Grieved by the loss of a loved one?
   5. Jesus knows it all, and is there to go with us through it – **Romans 12:15**
      1. “I traveled on a lonely road and no one seemed to care. The burden on my weary back had bowed me to despair; I oft complained to Jesus how folks were treating me, And then I heard Him say so tenderly, ‘My feet were also weary, upon the Calvary road; The cross became so heavy, I fell beneath the load, Be faithful weary pilgrim the morning I can see, Just lift your cross and follow close to me.’” (Follow Me)
10. His Example
    1. His sympathy means more than any other because while some are able to sympathize, but still have no answers, He sympathizes and serves as an example to follow – **Hebrews 4:15** – tempted like us, but did not sin.
    2. Came in likeness of sinful flesh – **Romans 8:3**
       1. This does not mean that flesh is inherently sinful.
       2. The passions, desires and appetites in the flesh often lead to sin.
       3. Jesus inhabited such flesh without sinning – He knew the way of spiritual victory.
       4. Condemned sin – SHOWED BY HIS PERFECT LIFE AS A MAN THAT THE PROBLEM IS NOT THE FLESH, BUT MAN’S CHOICE, AND AS A SINLESS MAN BECAME THE PERFECT SACRIFICE TO RELEASE OTHERS FROM DEATH.
    3. **1 Peter 2:20-24** – left us an example to follow.
       1. Context concerns servants being mistreated by masters.
       2. Jesus sympathizes – He was also mistreated.
       3. Jesus serves as a perfect example – how do you cope? How do you react? Where do you go from here?
    4. **Jeremiah 10:23** – way of man not in himself.
       1. When we experience life under the sun we do not know how to respond properly.
       2. Jesus serves as the pattern – an example to follow.
    5. **Matthew 11:28-30** – Jesus calls us to let Him take control by learning from Him, and following Him – we will find rest.
       1. **Colossians 2:9-10** – we are complete in Him as we follow Him because of His fullness of the godhead bodily.
       2. If we follow Jesus’ example we will be in fellowship (partakers) with the Divine Nature – **2 Peter 1:3-4**
11. His Aid
    1. His ability to sympathize, and serve as a perfect example because He became flesh are ultimately tools to aid us in getting to heaven.
    2. **Hebrews 2:9-18** – aid not given to angels, but us, the seed of Abraham.
       1. Even angels were to serve us – **Hebrews 1:14**
       2. The focus of Jesus in coming in the flesh was to rescue man from sin and death!
       3. **(v. 16)** – Aid – *epilambanomai*; to seize (for help, injury, attainment, or any other purpose; literally or figuratively) (STRONG) – (metaph. to rescue one from peril, to help, succor)
       4. Fear of death – as our captain He rushed death Himself, experienced it, and conquered it so we don’t have to fear.
       5. Propitiation – shed His blood as the payment for our sin to appease the wrath of God.
       6. Further aid in temptation – with His own experiences He can help us through life on this side of heaven.
    3. To receive this aid we must come to it:
       1. **Hebrews 4:14-16** – come boldly to find help. (confidently)
       2. **Hebrews 10:10, 14, 17-22** – our boldness, or confidence, is afforded us like no other at any other time due to the effectiveness and sufficiency of Christ’s High Priesthood and sacrifice.
          1. He aids us with the propitiation in His blood.
          2. When we are washed in that blood He continually aids us as we have unmatched access to the throne of Grace.

**Conclusion**

1. The Humanity of Jesus is just as pertinent a component to our salvation as His deity.
2. We are blessed to have a God that loves us enough to condescend to our level to show us the way, and become the perfect sacrifice for our sin.
3. Let us benefit from the sympathy, example, and aid of Christ who came in the flesh.